

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 03442 01 OF 02 191604Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /120 W

----- 011924

R 191553Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8826

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03442

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM APPROVED AS CONSERVATIVES

DROP CHALLENGE

REF: LONDON 3295

1. SUMMARY: CONSERVATIVES (BUT NOT LIBERALS) WITHDREW
FROM A PARLIAMENTARY CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT
LAST EVENING AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SCRAP STATUTORY PAY RESTRAINTS
UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON A SUBSTITUTE
VOLUNTARY PROGRAM. BOTH MAJOR PARTIES NARROWLY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 03442 01 OF 02 191604Z

AVERTED PRECIPITATING ANOTHER GENERAL ELECTION THAT

NEITHER WANTS JUST YET. CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS ALIKE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO RE-EXAMINE HOW THEY CAN BEST PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION TO THIS MINORITY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT BRINGING IT DOWN PREMATURELY. END SUMMARY

2. AFTER FIVE FULL DAYS OF DEBATE ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECH, THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM WAS APPROVED LAST NIGHT (MARCH 18) BY A VOTE OF 287 TO 7, CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS ABSTAINING AND ONLY THE NATIONALISTS OPPOSING. THE MUCH PUBLICIZED THREAT BY CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS TO TOPPLE THE NEW GOVERNMENT OVER THE QUESTION OF A STATUTORY INCOMES POLICY FADED AFTER MICHAEL FOOT, IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT, MADE CLEAR THAT EXISTING STATUTORY PAY RESTRAINTS WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE GOVERNMENT REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS ON A VOLUNTARY SYSTEM TO REPLACE THEM. SEIZING ON THIS ASSURANCE, THE CONSERVATIVE SHADOW CABINET DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THE AMENDMENT IT HAD PUT DOWN REGRETTING THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN ASSURANCE FROM THE QUEEN'S ADDRESS (REFTEL). THE LIBERALS REFUSED TO AGREE TO A WITHDRAWAL, SO THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT TO A VOICE VOTE AND OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED.

3. LIBERAL AND NATIONALIST AMENDMENTS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE OMISSION FROM THE QUEEN'S SPEECH OF ANY PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTED ASSEMBLIES IN SCOTLAND AND WALES OR FOR ELECTORAL REFORM WERE NOT EVEN CALLED BY THE SPEAKER. BECAUSE OF THIS, LIBERALS AND NATIONALISTS OPPOSED CLOTURE OF DEBATE BUT THEY WERE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE CONSERVATIVES, AND THE GOVERNMENT WON A CLOTURE MOTION 295 TO 21.

4. COMMENT: THE CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION CAN CLAIM SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN HAVING PRODDED THE GOVERNMENT TO STATE EXPLICITLY WHAT HERETOFORE HAD ONLY BEEN IMPLICIT, NAMELY THAT IT WOULD NOT SCRAP THE EXISTING STATUTORY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 03442 02 OF 02 191602Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /120 W

----- 011854

R 191553Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8827
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03442

INCOMES POLICY UNTIL IT HAD SECURED AGREEMENT ON A SATISFACTORY VOLUNTARY POLICY TO TAKE ITS PLACE. HOWEVER, IN THREATENING TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE, THEY LAID THEMSELVES OPEN TO CHARGES OF SEEKING NEEDLESSLY TO PRECIPITATE ANOTHER GENERAL ELECTION AT A TIME OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS. WHEN THEY REALIZED THEY WERE COURTING ELECTORAL DISASTER, THEY WERE ONLY TOO GLAD TO ACCEPT MICHAEL FOOT'S ASSURANCES AS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR WITHDRAWING FROM A PARLIAMENTARY SHOWDOWN.

5. THE NET RESULT HAS BEEN TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S TACTICS. IF IT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 03442 02 OF 02 191602Z

SEEKING, AS SOME CLAIMED, TO FORCE THE CREATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, IT SHOULD HAVE REALIZED FROM ALL THAT LABOR SPOKESMEN SAID BEFORE, DURING, AND SINCE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THAT LABOR WOULD NEVER AGREE. IF IT WAS SEEKING TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT ON SOME FUNDAMENTAL POINT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ADVISED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE BUDGET HAD BEEN UNVEILED. IN ANY EVENT, IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE FORCED THE GOVERNMENT INTO A PARLIAMENTARY CONFRONTATION UNLESS IT WAS PREPARED TO TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES AND FIGHT ANOTHER GENERAL ELECTION.

6. THE LIBERALS, OF COURSE, MUST SHARE WITH THE CONSERVATIVES THE ONUS FOR THE WAY THINGS NEARLY GOT OUT OF HAND THIS PAST WEEK. STRATEGISTS IN BOTH PARTIES ARE CLEARLY GOING TO HAVE TO RE-THINK HOW THEY ARE TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION TO A MINORITY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT BRINGING IT DOWN PREMATURELY.

SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: QUEEN, WAGES, POLICIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, SPEECHES, ELECTIONS, LOWER HOUSE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON03442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740333/aaaabemh.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LONDON 3295
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM APPROVED AS CONSERVATIVES DROP CHALLENGE
TAGS: PINT, UK, (WILSON, HAROLD), (FOOT, MICHAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005